

Sheans, Peteries and Brians in the Antigonish Catholic Diocese Database

By Joe Petrie

There are nearly 92,000 records in the Antigonish Catholic Diocese database. There are over 20,000 images available to read. Unlike most software, the links between the two seem not to exist.

There are 22 Shean records in the Antigonish Catholic Diocese database. There are 11 Peterie records. There are 9 Brian records.

I decided to read the records to see whether users should expand their search of the records for families names like Sheehan, Petrie and O'Brien.

SHEAN - I am suspicious about 7 of the 22 Shean records in the database because the Fathers' Surnames were Sheehan.

- Anne - B 15 May 1849 to Daniel Sheehan and Helene Fitzgerald
- Catherine – B 17 Nov 1842 to Daniel Sheehan and Catherine Murphy
- Jacques Jean – B 27 Feb 1846 to John Sheehan and Nancy Thebault
- Marie Anne – B 17 May 1851 to John Sheehan and Anne Thebault
- Mary – B 25 Aug 1854 to John Sheehan and Catherine Tobin
- Pierre Alexandre – B 1 Jul 1858 to John Sheehan and Nancy Thebault
- Thomas – B 5 Dec 1829 to Daniel Sheehan and Catherine Murphy

PETERIE –I believe that all records are really Petrie records.

BRIAN – At least 4 of the 9 are O'Brien records.

There are lots of Surnames that sound alike but are spelled differently. How does a user ensure that all possible records are retrieved? Please note that I nearly recommended using the FamilySearch Collections List software to retrieve and search the Antigonish Catholic Diocese using the current search software. When I searched for the 7 Shean records individually, all the Father's Sheehan Surnames were changed to Shean. WOOPS!

I had also planned to read the image file records. I gave up after trying to find the Anne Shean record. I'll need to rearrange my list by date to match the date sequence on the Parish Register.

I suggest that users develop a set of search criteria similar to the criteria that designers used in the Automated Census of Canada – where the users can expand the search to include Surnames that sound the same but are spelled differently. The FamilySearch Community Trees software currently has a Surname tab that produces a listing of Surnames with the Number of records. I recommend that users start with the Surname list first to a compile a list of Surname s to be checked. A Sheehan list might for example include: Shehan, Shean, Sheen etc.

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